

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/017,299  
Response filed April 17, 2006  
Reply to OA dated January 17, 2006

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1       Claim 1 (previously presented): Electronic equipment having a plurality of electronic units  
2       working in cooperation comprising:  
3            a first electronic unit having a first version data of said first electronic unit itself; and  
4            a second electronic unit having a second version data of said second electronic unit itself, and  
5            a second support version data of said first electronic unit being supported by said second electronic  
6       unit, said first electronic unit having first support version data of said second electronic unit being  
7       supported by said first electronic unit,  
8            wherein at least one of said first electronic unit and said second electronic unit performs a  
9       first comparison of the magnitude of said first version data and said second support version data,  
10      performs a second comparison of the magnitude of said second version data and said first support  
11      version data and verifies the compatibility between said first and second electronic units according  
12      to the results of the first and second comparisons.

1       Claim 2 (previously presented): The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein  
2       each one of said plurality of electronic units comprises:  
3            a memory for storing control program; and

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4                   a processor for executing said control program, and wherein said version data comprises the  
5                   version data of said control program.

1                   Claim 3 (previously presented): The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein  
2                   either one of said first and second electronic units verifies the compatibility after either electronic  
3                   unit of said first electronic unit or said second electronic unit is substituted.

1                   Claim 4 (previously presented): The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein said  
2                   first and second support version data comprise a newest support version data.

1                   Claim 5 (original): The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein said plurality  
2                   of electronic units are constituted by printer controller units.

1                   Claim 6 (previously presented): The electronic equipment according to claim 2 wherein  
2                   either one of said first and second electronic units changes said version of the control program  
3                   when incompatibility is verified, to automatically shift to a proper version providing compatibility.

1                   Claim 7 (previously presented): The electronic equipment according to claim 6 wherein  
2                   either one of said first and second electronic units controls a valid or invalid of a difference  
3                   information in the control program comprised an old control program and said difference

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4 information between the old control program to change said version of said control program.

1                   Claim 8 (previously presented): The electronic equipment according to claim 6 wherein said  
2 first electronic unit includes a first memory for storing a first control program and includes a first  
3 processor for executing said first control program, wherein said second electronic unit includes a  
4 second memory for storing a second control program and includes a second processor for executing  
5 said second control program, wherein either one of said first and second electronic units verifies the  
6 compatibility using said version data of said control programs after said control program version is  
7 changed to maintain the compatibility between said control programs.

1                   Claim 9 (previously presented): The electronic equipment according to claim 2 wherein  
2 either one of said first and second electronic units verifies the compatibility when installing said  
3 control program of either one electronic unit.

1                   Claim 10 (currently amended): A first electronic unit working in cooperation with a second  
2 electronic unit, said first electronic unit having compatibility verification data for verifying the  
3 compatibility with said second electronic unit, said compatibility verification data comprising:  
4                   a support version data of said second electronic unit being supported by said first electronic  
5 unit itself, to be compared with a version data of said second electronic unit; and  
6                   a version data of said first electronic unit itself being supported by said second electronic

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7       unit,

8               wherein at least one of said first electronic unit and said second electronic unit performs a  
9       comparison of the magnitude of the version data of said second electronic unit and the support  
10      version data.

1               Claim 11 (previously presented): A computer-implemented method for verifying a  
2       compatibility in electronic equipment having a plurality of electronic units working in cooperation,  
3       said method comprising the steps of:

4               performing a first comparison of a first version data of one electronic unit among said  
5       plurality of electronic units with a second support version data of said electronic unit being supported  
6       by another electronic unit;

7               performing a second comparison of a second version data of the other electronic unit with  
8       a first support version data of the other electronic unit being supported by said electronic unit; and  
9               verifying the compatibility among said plurality of electronic units using results of said first  
10      and second comparisons.

1               Claim 12 (previously presented): The method for verifying the compatibility according to  
2       claim 11 wherein said first version data and first support version data comprise the version data of  
3       a control program of said one electronic unit, and  
4               said second version data and second support version data comprise version data of a control

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5 program of said other electronic unit.

1       Claim 13 (previously presented): The method for verifying the compatibility according to  
2       claim 11 wherein said compatibility verification is performed after one of said first electronic unit  
3       or said second electronic unit is substituted.

1       Claim 14 (previously presented): The method for verifying the compatibility according to  
2       claim 11 wherein said first and second support version data comprise a newest support version data.

1       Claim 15 (original): The method for verifying the compatibility according to claim 11  
2       wherein said plurality of electronic units are constituted by printer controller units.

1       Claim 16 (currently amended): The method for verifying the compatibility according to  
2       claim 12 , further comprising a step of changing said version data of the control program when  
3       incompatibility is verified, to automatically shift to a proper version providing compatibility.

1       Claim 17 (original): The method for verifying the compatibility according to claim 12  
2       wherein said compatibility verification is performed on installing a control program of either one  
3       of the plurality of electronic units.

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1           Claim 18 (previously presented): The method for verifying the compatibility in electronic  
2           equipment according to claim 16 further comprising the step of:

3           re-verifying the compatibility using said version data of said control programs after changing  
4           a version of one of said control programs to be executed by a processor in one of said electronic  
5           units.

1           Claim 19 (previously presented): The method for verifying the compatibility according to  
2           claim 17 wherein a changing step comprises a step of changing a version of said control program  
3           being constituted by an older version of said control program and differential information between  
4           said versions, by controlling to make said differential information either valid or invalid.

1           Claim 20 (previously presented): A method of detecting compatibility among a first  
2           electronic unit and a second electronic unit, the method comprising:

3           performing a first comparison of a magnitude of first data stored in the first electronic unit  
4           and a magnitude of second data stored in the second electronic unit;

5           when a result of the first comparison indicates that the magnitude of the second data is  
6           smaller than the magnitude of the first data, displaying an error indicating incompatibility;

7           when the result of the first comparison indicates that the magnitude of the second data is  
8           larger than the magnitude of the first data, performing a second comparison of a magnitude of third  
9           data stored in the first electronic unit and a magnitude of fourth data stored in the second electronic

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10 unit;

11 when a result of the second comparison indicates that the magnitude of the third data is

12 smaller than the magnitude of the fourth data, displaying the error indicating incompatibility; and

13 when the result of the second comparison indicates that the magnitude of the third data is

14 larger than the magnitude of the fourth data, starting control programs of the first and second

15 electronic units.

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